

Message Text

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73

ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5425

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PASS DOT FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY BARNUM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CA, ETRN

SUBJ: GREAT LAKES PILOTAGE

REF: STATE 10723

1. I BROUGHT UP PILOTAGE PROBLEM WITH MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MACEACHEN) THIS AFTERNOON. REFTEL ARRIVED TOO LATE FOR ME TO PROVIDE HIM WITH TEXT OF NOTE WHICH IT CONTAINED, BUT AS HE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO STUDY THE SUBJECT WE AGREED THAT I WOULD PROVIDE HIM PAPER OUTLINING US POSITION AS STATED IN YOUR TEXT.

2. MACEACHEN, WHO ONCE HELD PORTFOLIO OF MINISTER OF LABOR, WAS GENERALLY FAMILIAR WITH PROBLEM, AND HAD BEEN BRIEFED PRIOR TO SEEING ME, BUT HE WAS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT ISSUE CONSISTED SOLELY OF REVENUE SHARING AND WAS QUITE UNAWARE OF PROBLEM OF US PARTICIPATION IN WELLAND CANAL PILOTAGE. I PROVIDED COMMENTARY BASED ON REFTEL AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT UNAVOIDABLE DIFFICULTIES LIE AHEAD UNLESS WE COULD ACHIEVE REASONABLE SETTLEMENT. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT ONE OF PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS IN HIS MIND WAS WHETHER

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THE GOVERNMENT COULD CONTROL CANADIAN PILOTS WHO,

WITH SUPPORT OF OTHER SEAWAY WORKERS, ARE PREPARED TO TIE UP LAKES AND SEAWAY IF FACED WITH UNACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS. HE WAS, HOWEVER, ENTIRELY DISPOSED TO GO INTO THE MATTER, AND I SHALL THEREFORE PROVIDE HIM WITH TEXT OF MESSAGE WITHIN A DAY OR TWO. MACEACHEN TOLD ME HE WANTED TO READ TEXT CAREFULLY HIMSELF BEFORE POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT IN CABINET MEETING.

3. MACEACHEN INQUIRED WHETHER STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD ASSIST IN MATTER IF HIS MINISTRY BECOMES INVOLVED. I SAID WE ALWAYS PREPARED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO OUR OWN COLLEAGUES IN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND FRIENDS IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HERE. LATER, HIS ASSISTANT TOLD ME THAT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ALREADY GIVING CONSIDERATION TO BROADENING PARTICIPATION, WHICH WAS MOTIVATION FOR THE MINISTER'S QUESTION TO ME.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

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